

Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service

Meeting Minutes, April 6, 2015

This was an on-the-air meeting conducted on the county-wide linked computer system. This was conducted as a net with President Nick Wharff, KI6RIT, acting as net control operator from the Emergency Operations Center station.

Stations checking in included KK6DHL, KE6EBZ, KJ6EIF, KJ6IBP, W6FQX, WA6JBK, W6JRC, KC6MGM, WB9NJS, KG6TXU, KJ6ZVS, KM6G, KJ6ZVR,

The initial discussion revolved around the Mendocino Monster bike event to be held on June 7th. KK6DHL is coordinating this from the sponsor side. The need for operators to sign up was discussed. W6FQX brought up the difficulty with the coastal rest stop at the Andiron Inn being staffed with operators having the appropriate equipment to access the repeaters. KE6EBZ said that he would staff the Andiron site with a mobile setup. There was also a discussion about the difficulties with radio propagation from the Comptche site with hand-held operation only possible with an operator standing on a storm drain cover. WA6JBK said that he could provide a copper J-pole antenna for that site.

The Redwood Valley rest stops were discussed. The previous stop at the Barra winery has been discontinued. The replacement stop is at the Testa Vineyards south of the Highway 20 undercrossing in Calpella. KJ6IBP indicated that he might go there.

There is also a rest stop at Lion's Park in Redwood Valley. Because this is close to being under the 149.390 repeater receiving site, trouble has been reported from here using HT power. A previous try using a vehicle cross-band repeater was not successful because the ham involved set up the 440 side on a local 440 MHz repeater instead of a simplex frequency.

KJ6EIF provided a summary of the tsunami exercise held on March 25th. There was good participation from hams on the coast although several were observed being in a dangerous place in the event of a real tsunami – being at or near sea level.

The license test session on April 18th was confirmed. KG6TXU will be conducting this session with assistance from Volunteer Examiners from both Lake and Mendocino Counties. KI6RIT will conduct a question and answer session to be held on April 11th. KJ6ZVS has been conducting test question review sessions at the Willits library.

The Human Race in Ukiah scheduled for May 2nd was discussed. KI6RIT will be providing a sign-up procedure for those that wish to participate. W6FQX said that he preferred the Park site preferably with a new ham to elmer. W6JRC said

that he and/or KI6RIT might be able to do a bicycle mobile support role depending on staffing at the various water stops.

The Health and Safety Fair being held in Boonville on July 18th was briefly discussed. KJ6EIF volunteered to bring the Teen CERT trailer to the fairgrounds for a possible ham radio demonstration. The difficulty of communicating from anywhere in Boonville was discussed. The need for an elevated antenna on the trailer is possibly critical. Steve would like one or two others to assist him and all county hams will be encouraged to standby their radios wherever they may be to participate in any demonstration.

There was further discussion of the repeater listing on the website. Some think that the map and listing are too complicated and only contain 2m repeaters. Also there were errors between the various lists and the map. KI6RIT said that the text listing (in html) is very time consuming to edit as compared to the Excel listing presented as a pdf. This listing and map is only for open 2m repeaters along the Redwood Highway corridor with some notable side sites. Most everybody has a 2m radio but only a few operate at 222 or 440 MHz.

For those that want more information about repeaters in other areas and for other bands, it was suggested that a link to the www.narcc.org site be provided. This site lists all known repeaters on all bands in California from Bakersfield north.

The net closed and operators at the EOC participated in contacts with the Humboldt County HF net and with the California Emergency Services Net, both on 75m.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lemmer, W6FQX
Secretary, McARCS